

SOUTH DAKOTANS ARE READY FOR A NEW DIRECTION

Under the leadership of President Bush and his Republican allies in Congress, life has become more difficult for South Dakotans. Here are some of the ways that life has become less affordable and secure in South Dakota. Democrats are working for real security, better jobs, college access for all, energy independence, affordable health care, and retirement security. It's time for a new direction in South Dakota.

INCOME: SOUTH DAKOTANS ARE BARELY EARNING MORE TODAY THAN THEY WERE FIVE YEARS AGO

- In 2000, the median income in South Dakota was \$41,658.¹
- In 2005, the median income in South Dakota was \$42,816, a modest increase of 2.8 percent.²

HEALTH CARE: THE NUMBER OF UNINSURED IN SOUTH DAKOTA HAS GROWN UNDER BUSH REPUBLICANS

- In 2000, South Dakota had 79,000 adults without insurance (10.9 percent).³
- In 2005, South Dakota had 95,000 adults without insurance (12.4 percent).⁴
- South Dakota had 14,038 children benefit from the SCHIP program.⁵ If funding is not restored by Congress to the SCHIP program, South Dakota will face a funding shortfall of \$2,475,000.⁶

EDUCATION: THE COST OF COLLEGE CONTINUES TO RISE IN SOUTH DAKOTA

- In 2001, tuition at a public four-year institution in South Dakota was \$6,979.⁷ In 2005, it was \$8,944, a 28 percent increase.⁸
- In 2001, tuition at a private four-year institution in South Dakota was \$15,398.⁹ In 2005, it was \$18,076, a 17 percent increase.¹⁰
- Number of South Dakotans affected by the lapse of the College Tuition Tax Deduction – 8,167¹¹
- Number of South Dakotans affected by the lapse of the Educator Expenses Tax Deduction – 8,515¹²

GAS PRICES: THE HIGH COST OF GAS CONTINUES TO BE A BURDEN FOR SOUTH DAKOTA RESIDENTS

- In 2001, the average cost of gas in South Dakota was \$1.497 a gallon.¹³
- Today the average cost of gas in South Dakota is \$2.389 a gallon.¹⁴
- In 2001, the average annual cost of gas for a household in South Dakota was \$2,406.¹⁵

- Today the average annual cost of gas for a household in South Dakota is \$3,839, \$1,434 (59.6 percent) more than it was in 2001.¹⁶

SOCIAL SECURITY: SOUTH DAKOTANS DON'T WANT AN END TO SOCIAL SECURITY

- Number of Social Security Beneficiaries in South Dakota – 139,770¹⁷
- Average Monthly Benefit per Beneficiary in South Dakota – \$809¹⁸

IRAQ, TROOPS AND VETERANS: SOUTH DAKOTANS ON THE FRONT LINES

- Number of South Dakotans killed in Iraq – 17¹⁹
- Number of South Dakotans wounded in Iraq – 82²⁰
- Number of South Dakotans killed in Afghanistan – 1²¹
- Number of South Dakotans wounded in Afghanistan – 5²²
- Number of Veterans in South Dakota – 73,400²³

REPUBLICANS CONTINUE TO PUSH FOR GIVEAWAYS FOR A WEALTHY MINORITY WHILE IGNORING SOUTH DAKOTA'S MINIMUM WAGE WORKERS

- Only 60 estates in South Dakota paid an Estate Tax in 2004.²⁴
- Only 18 estates in South Dakota will benefit from the Estate Tax cut in 2009.²⁵
- In contrast, 29,000 workers in South Dakota would benefit from an increase in the minimum wage.²⁶

CRIME: VIOLENT CRIME IN SOUTH DAKOTA IS ON THE RISE

- Number of Violent Crimes in South Dakota per 100,000 residents in 2000 – 166.827
- Number of Violent Crimes in South Dakota per 100,000 residents in 2005 – 175.728
- Amount of COPS Funding Dispersed in 2002 – \$6,024,336²⁹
- Amount of COPS Funding Dispersed in 2006 – \$1,253,898³⁰

TAX CUTS: BUSH TAX POLICIES BENEFIT THE WEALTHIEST SOUTH DAKOTANS

The Bush tax cuts have overwhelmingly benefited the wealthiest South Dakotans.

- In 2001, the richest one percent of South Dakota residents each received an average of \$2,566 in tax cuts, while middle class South Dakota residents received only \$394.³¹
- In 2006, the richest one percent of South Dakota residents will receive an average of \$33,407 in tax cuts, while middle class South Dakota residents will only receive \$738.³²
- In 2010, under the Bush tax plan, the richest one percent of South Dakota residents will each receive an average of \$61,454 in tax cuts, while middle class South Dakota residents will only receive \$890.³³

The richest South Dakotans receive an ever-growing share of the Bush tax cut.

- In 2001, the richest South Dakotans received 6.2 percent of the Bush tax cut, while the middle class received 18.8 percent of the tax cut.³⁴
- But, in 2006, the richest South Dakotans will get 24.7 percent of the Bush tax cut, while the middle class will get 10.9 percent of the tax cut.³⁵
- And, in 2010, the richest South Dakotans will get 41.5 percent of the Bush tax cut, while the middle class will get 12.0 percent of the tax cut.³⁶

Bush capital gains and dividend tax cuts overwhelmingly benefit the wealthiest South Dakotans.

- In 2010, the richest South Dakotans will receive an average of \$10,714 from the Bush capital gains and dividend tax cuts. That means the richest South Dakotans will be getting over 47.4 percent of all of the tax cut benefit.³⁷
- In contrast, in 2010, middle class South Dakotans will receive an average of \$69 from the Bush capital gains and dividend tax cuts. That's just 6.1 percent of the benefit going to the middle class.³⁸

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